

INC PARC May14

The INC PARC (Parks and Recreation Committee) met May 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present were co-chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Diana Helper, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Ronnie Crawford, Jay Rust, Brad Cameron, and Greg Sorenson and Paula Kauffman.

Katie and Maggie reported that there is a new contact person from DPR, Yolanda (Yoli) Quesada. She will attend the June PARC meeting. Angela Casias is now assigned to the Emerald Ash Bore project.

Topics discussed included DPR plans for controlling crowds expected at Washington Park over Memorial Day weekend; the lack of response from the SEAP committee regarding INC's request for a wrap-up meeting to which the citizen reps would be invited; the Auditor's report on DPR, parts of which DPR and the Mayor have taken exception to—PARC questioning what the next steps will be; and the successful control of noise at City Park during the recent marathon.

PARC discussed the park designation process, which is moving to phases 4 and 5. The designation of trails may be next on the agenda. Historic designation of parks also was mentioned, as City Park looks into this. Other parks may follow, but this is a complex process and needs careful study.

Ray, Jim and Ronnie gave updates on the Platte project, the enhanced overpass sidewalk plan from light rail to Rudy Hill Park, over the existing bridge, and the new Cop Shop going in near the Evans light rail station.

Also brought up was the real concern of growing overcrowding and overuse of parks, leading to their deterioration, caused by densified populations without new open space provided by developers. This is a DPR problem closely allied to zoning matters. The combination of a requirement for more new usable open space in densifying neighborhoods, *and* for moving large events to a proper Festival Park—perhaps in the Stock Show area—would be of great help to the health and quality of life for Denver residents-- and the reputation of the City.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting will be June 17.
Diana Helper, PARC member.